

# Conservation Connections



## St. Louis Regional Newsletter

Missouri Department of Conservation

March 2012

## Growing Plants for Good Pond Habitat

*By Sarah J. Peper, Fisheries Management Biologist*

A good fishing pond requires plenty of habitat for small fish and aquatic insects. Without the necessary cover, aquatic insect populations will not thrive, and young fish will be vulnerable to predation, resulting in a deficient food chain. A great way to improve habitat in a pond is by cultivating beneficial aquatic vegetation. The key is to encourage species that are native, slow-spreading and limited by water depth (See side bar for species list.) Besides providing habitat, aquatic plants reduce shoreline erosion, help limit algae growth, and offer beautiful foliage and flowers.

The words "aquatic plants" make most of us think of stringy weeds filling a pond. The sight of anything green growing in a pond sends most folks running for the herbicide sprayer. But sometimes good plants establish naturally, and good habitat is as effortless as not eradicating them. Identify plants before spraying; there may be some worth keeping.

Not lucky enough to have beneficial plants provided by nature? They can be purchased. It makes a nice, messy spring project, as most of these plants need to be planted from root stock. That means wading into the shallows and pushing roots into the mud. A temporary fence around the planted area may be needed to protect the new garden from herbivores. Deer, muskrats, and other animals love to eat aquatic plants. Protect the plants for a couple of growing seasons; once they are well-established the fence can be removed.

Before you decide to purchase any aquatic plants for your fishing pond:

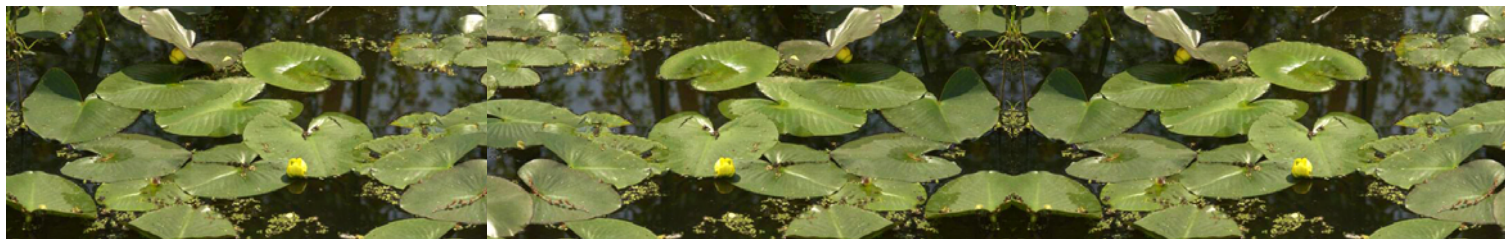
- Purchase only native Missouri plants. Most water garden/aquarium plants are not native. DO NOT put them in your pond. Many exotic, invasive plants (and fish, snails, etc.) are introduced to the wild through aquarium releases, with devastating results.
- Control any nuisance vegetation already present. It's no use planting good plants if they are going to get choked out by, or sprayed with the weeds.
- Remove grass carp. Many of the recommended plants are favorite foods of grass carp.

For more information on when, where and how to purchase and grow pond plants, ask for or download the pamphlet "How to Establish Aquatic Plants in Your Pond."



### Species to consider for pond habitat:

- Pickerelweed
- Arrowhead
- Squarestem spikerush
- Spatterdock
- Sweet flag



# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

March 2012

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877 - 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom)

## 4 Native Plants for Your Back Yard Habitat

*Sunday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Adults) Would you like to attract birds, butterflies, and other interesting creatures to your yard? Create an irresistible habitat for them by adding native plants to your garden. Missouri's native plants and animals are meant for each other. We'll introduce you to hardy native plants that thrive in our area: plants that attract a variety of native animals to your yard. Spring is just around the corner. It's not too early to start working on your summer garden. (Reservations begin February 18.)



## 4 Building Bird Feeders

*Sunday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.*

(Families) Many conservation-minded Missourians recognize that early spring is a great time to provide feeding opportunities for song birds as their annual migration comes full circle. Have you ever tried to build your own bird feeder? There are many ways to offer birdseed throughout our yards, and together we can explore some clever and inexpensive feeding ideas. To round out this program, we'll help you build your own bird feeder from plans outlined in our booklet, "Woodworking for Wildlife". We'll also provide the materials. All you need to bring is some elbow grease. (Reservations begin February 19.)

## 9 Wetlands by Moonlight

*Friday 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

(Ages 7 & Up) The wetlands at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area serve as a great example of how the Missouri Department of Conservation works to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife. Thousands of migrating waterfowl depend on these wetlands to eat and rest on their long journey between summer and winter homes. Spring migration is at its peak around this time as the sounds of ducks and geese mingle with the calling of spring peepers and chorus frogs. Discover the sights and sounds of nature as we walk by the light of the full moon through the wetlands. Dress for the weather and wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. Meet at the Visitor Center to carpool to the hike site. (Reservations begin February 24.)

## 10 Dresser Island Pelican Walk

*Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

(Ages 10 & Up) Conservation makes Missouri not only a great place to hunt and fish, but it also gives us the opportunity to enrich our quality of life by simply viewing nature. Dresser Island on the Mississippi River is a great spot to hike and watch for pelicans, eagles, and other spring migrants. We'll walk to the northern end of the island where the pelicans tend to congregate and watch for swans, hawks, gulls, and herons along the way. Dress for the weather. Viewing scopes will be provided. Bring your binoculars, field guides, and hiking shoes or boots. We'll walk up to four miles. (Reservations begin February 25.)

## 11 Animal Impressions

*Sunday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

(Families) Time to lift the winter drift and get out to discover the wonderful wildlife impressions in the diverse habitats found at Columbia Bottom. Naturalists will help you identify various animal tracks and signs of life both indoors and out. While outside, we'll explore the nearby prairie field and forest. Inside, we'll make plaster tracks so you can take your animal impressions home with you. (Reservations begin February 26.)



## 17 Columbia Bottom Challenge: Celebrating Forests

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Ages 10 & Up) Do you want to learn more about forest habitats in Missouri? This quest-based program will help you look at trees in a whole new way. The Columbia Bottom Challenge is a day of fun puzzles designed to be entertaining while discovering Missouri's nature. Gather a team of 2 to 4 players to compete in this part-scavenger hunt, part-trivia challenge, part-road rally adventure! Each team must have one member with a valid driver's license. Bring your best puzzle solving skills and a sack lunch. Prizes will be awarded to the savviest teams. Registration runs March 1 through March 14. For more information call Columbia Bottom during business hours. (Reservations begin March 1.)



# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (636) 441- 4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch)

## 3 Discover Nature Families: Beginning Birding

*Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*

(All Ages) Bird watching is a lifelong hobby. We'll explore basic bird identification techniques and assist parents and children to work together finding and identifying birds on a short hike. (Reservations begin February 17.)

## 4 Orienteering: Emphasis on Features of a Topographic Map

*Sunday 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.*

(Ages 12 & Up) Are you physically fit and looking for a more strenuous and challenging off-trail experience? This trek travels 4 to 6 miles of Weldon Spring Conservation Area using a topographic map, compass, and your skills at reading the land. You will work with our Naturalists to read landforms such as valleys, saddles, waterways, and ridges from a topo to find various landmarks and checkpoints in the rugged and steep woods of Weldon. This experience is designed for those who have a working knowledge of an orienteering compass and desire more experience reading a map while in the field. Children ages 12 – 17 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 20.)

## 10 It's Purple Martin Time

*Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*

(Ages 14 & Up) Purple martins are on their way back to the St. Louis area from South America. Are you ready for their arrival? Learn how you can help conserve these beautiful insect-eating, cavity-dwelling swallows that are native to Missouri. We will talk about purple martins and then discuss establishing and managing a colony in your own

backyard. Weather permitting, we will also view the housing that a colony of purple martins uses each year at the Busch Visitor's Center. (Reservations begin February 24.)

## 10 or 17 Night Hike: Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

*Two separate program dates:*

*Saturday, 10:*

*5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Adults*

*Saturday, 17:*

*6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Families*

Experience the sounds of a late winter evening during a 3.2 mile hike. We will listen and watch for timberdoodles (American woodcocks) performing their courtship displays shortly after sunset. This "nature show" belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. Learn how the timberdoodle locates and catches its food. We may also hear and see small frogs called spring peepers performing their courtship songs

from the small ponds along the trail. (Reservations begin February 24.)

## 24 Laser Night Hike 2.0: New Route, New Challenge

*Saturday 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.*

(Ages 10 & Up) The dark of night. Two miles, through the woods, following the straight-line path you create with the compass in your hands, searching for three waypoints in the northern part of the Busch Conservation Area. This off-trail navigation has you armed with flashlight, compass, laser light, and map. Challenge, adventure, and "braggin' rights" await you. Join our naturalists as they pass on the navigation experiences of a private pilot, outdoor education instructor, and more than 50-year veteran of trail blazing to you, and your family and friends. (Reservations begin March 1.)

## March 31 – April 1

### Backpacking at Meramec State Park

#### Pre-Trip Practice Packing and Hike:

Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Busch



(Ages 10 & Up) Let's hit the trail! Join our naturalists for a group backpacking trip, hiking 10 rugged miles on the Wilderness Trail at Meramec State Park. Don't have equipment? No problem. We've partnered with REI for free rental supplies of backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cooking supplies and more. We'll help you gather supplies, pack food, water, clothing and everything you need for a fun, family friendly outing on the trail. (All participants will be contacted directly by naturalists with gear lists and logistics for the upcoming trip. Reservations begin March 9.)

# Rockwoods Reservation

March 2012

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation>

## Donations Needed – Camping Supplies

The naturalists at Busch and Rockwoods are gearing up for an exciting spring, summer and fall of 2012, to connect families to nature with new and unforgettable trips all over Missouri, and we need your help! Taking families out at “no cost” isn’t always as “no cost” as it seems. Backpacking and river float camping trips require gear for families to borrow that helps them learn how to use equipment, learn what gear works for them and gain ideas for products they may eventually purchase.

Please consider donating any of the following items by contacting Kevin McCarthy, interpretive center manager at [kevin.mccarthy@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:kevin.mccarthy@mdc.mo.gov) or 636-300-1953 ext.

244. All equipment must be clean and in good working condition.

- Overnight backpacks
- Tents – backpacking and car camping style
- Sleeping bags – warm and cool weather
- Sleeping pads
- Rope or cord
- Small tarps and tent footprints
- Cook stoves
- Cooking pots and utensils
- Water purifiers
- Dry bags

## 20 Signs of Spring

*Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 3 – 7) The days are longer, temperatures are warmer, and animals and plants are responding to the changing season. Spring is here! Join us for a fun morning of learning about and looking for the signs of spring, including wildflowers, butterflies, and more! Please dress for the weather, as part of the program will be outside. (Reservations begin March 6.)

## March 31 – April 1

### Backpacking at Meramec State Park

IMPORTANT: Information located on the August A. Busch page

## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

## 21 Spring Break – Wetland Exploration

*Wednesday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

(Ages 5 - 8) Spring is officially here! Let's take some dip nets and collecting containers with us to see what's new at the Deer Lake Wetland/Savanna Complex. Plants and animals alike are gearing up for the season.

This program will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather, bring a water bottle and wear shoes that can get muddy! Meet at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center in Forest Park to embark on the exploration! (Reservations begin March 8.)



## 22 Spring Break – GPS & Geocaching

*Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

(Ages 9 - 16) Take a break from school and still have technology in the palm of your hand. Geocaching is a great way to learn how to navigate a GPS while discovering nature. Don't worry. If you have never used a GPS, or know what a geocache is, this is the class for you! You'll learn the basics of the GPS and then we'll break for lunch by Deer Lake. Finally, you'll test your skills at finding hidden geocaches around Forest Park. This program will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather and remember your sack lunch. Meet at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center in Forest Park to begin our journey. P.S. No Homework! (Reservations begin March 8.)

# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

March 2012

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

**For program reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch>

## 14 Discover Hunting: Shot Shell Reloading

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 8 & Up) How much ammunition



do you go through?  
Wouldn't it be great  
if you knew how to  
reload so that you could

customize your own loads and save money? No more waiting in long lines, or running out of ammunition. Join us to learn how to reload your shotgun shells. We will cover equipment, components and what techniques work best. This program will be held in the classrooms at the August A. Busch office building. (Reservations begin February 14.)

## 14, 15 & 17 Basic Shotgun

Wednesday, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.,

Thursday, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. &

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) This program is designed for new shotgun shooters.

These students will learn the basic fundamentals of safe and accurate shotgun shooting. Our primary emphasis will be on safety and we will cover shotgun types, ammunition, shooting stance, lead and proper technique. Wednesday will be conducted in the classroom at the Busch CA main office and Thursday night & Saturday morning will be held at the shooting range for some hands-on experience. You may bring your own shotgun or we can supply the firearms. (Reservations begin February 14.)

## 21& 22 Basic Trap

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & Up) This program is designed for those who have had some experience with shotguns, want to improve their skills, learn basics of trap shooting and become successful trap shooters. The class portion will cover layout of field, chokes, distances, stances, gun mount, techniques and above all, safety. Wednesday will be conducted in the classroom at the Busch CA main office and Thursday night will be held at the shooting range for some hands-on experience. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You can bring your own equipment or we can provide it for you. (Reservations begin February 21.)

## 24 Discover Nature Families: Basic Archery

Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon.

(Ages 11 & Up) Tired of the same old family outings and been looking for something new to do? Then join us for our introductory class in archery. This class is designed for families to learn together the fundamentals of archery. We will cover parts of the bow, types of bows, stances, and techniques to get you on target. This program will be held at the August A. Busch Shooting Range. (Reservations begin February 24.)



## 29 Discover Hunting: Turkey Hunting

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) Gobble, gobble, gobble.

What does it all mean? Come join us to learn some tips and techniques for turkey hunting. We will cover safety, habitat, firearms, the different calls, when and how often to call, and the different types of equipment used. This program will be held in the classrooms at the August A. Busch office building. (Reservations begin February 28.)



## The TreeKeepers program,

presented by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and sponsored in part by the Missouri Department of Conservation, educates citizens about trees, their benefits and care, and provides practical, hands-on learning in five key areas: tree ID, growth, planting, pruning, and insects and diseases. Graduates are asked to provide 24 hours of volunteer service to Forest ReLeaf or in forestry-related projects. Class is limited to the first 50 registrants. **To register, contact Forest ReLeaf at 314-533-5323 or [info@moreleaf.org](mailto:info@moreleaf.org).** Classes will meet at Powder Valley Nature Center from 1-3 PM on: 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12. The final class will be held at CommuniTree Gardens in Maryland Heights on 4/26.

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov) and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the right of the page.



# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

March 2012

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

## For program reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges>

### 1 & 3 Basic Handgun, Parts 1 & 2

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

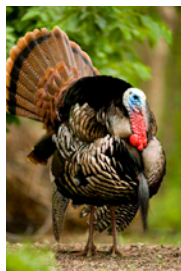
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & Up) This two-part program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We will start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 1.)

### 8 Wild Turkey Management Workshop

Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

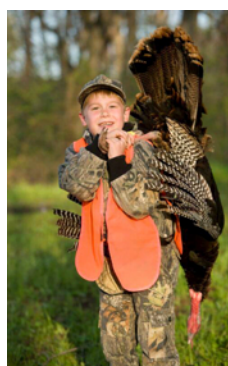
(Ages 11 & Up) Come spend an evening with MDC Resource Scientist Jason Isabelle to discuss various topics related to wild turkey management. This workshop will cover an introduction to history, biology, habitat, harvest data and management of wild turkeys and wild turkey hunting in Missouri. A question and answer session will follow the program. (Reservations begin February 8.)



### 15 Turkey Hunting and Calling Workshop

Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) Come discover how exciting turkey calling can be at this informative workshop. We will discuss calling tips and techniques for beginners as well as advanced instruction from a professional turkey caller. We will then discuss how to apply calling in



real turkey hunting situations, exploring different scenarios that hunters often encounter. Come learn useful turkey hunting and calling tips at this information-packed seminar! (Reservations begin February 15.)

### 17 Trigger Time - Handgun

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 & Up) Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 50 rounds). (Reservations begin February 17.)

### 19 Shotgun Patterning for Turkey Hunting Workshop

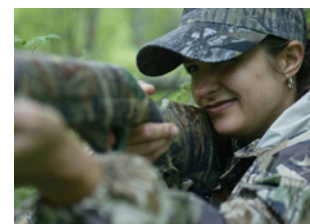
Monday 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) What is your maximum effective range to harvest a turkey? What shot size should you be using for turkey hunting? These questions and more will be answered in this informative program on shotgun patterning for turkey hunting. We will help you find the most effective choke/shotshell combination for your shotgun. Come discover the answers at this educational hands-on program! (Reservations begin February 19.)

### 24 Basic Shotgun

Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & Up) This is an introductory program for beginning shotgunners who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. All participants will have an opportunity to break some clay targets after the classroom portion of the program. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. (Reservations begin February 24.)



The Missouri Department of Conservation is celebrating our 75th anniversary. On Nov. 3, 1936, voters approved Amendment Four, creating our agency and the beginning of Missouri's unique, citizen-led conservation story. Many of the successful partnerships and programs that have helped to restore the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of Missouri, as well as the challenges ahead, will be highlighted throughout the next year.

Watch for more information in the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine and on the web: [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

**Building hours:** Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

**Area and trails:** Open seven days a week 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

## 6 Birds in the Backyard

*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

(Ages 8 & Up) What baby bird can eat 14 feet of worms a day? What bird has a long, sticky, barbed tongue and built-in shock absorbers in its head? What bird do people like so much that it is the state bird of seven states? What bird is so small that it can be lunch for a praying mantis? Discover these and other little-known stories of the birds we know best. Also, make a nest box to donate to a bird shelter! (Reservations begin February 21.)

## 15 Snakes!

*Thursday 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.*

(Ages 6 & Up) At this time of year most snakes are still in their overwintering homes waiting for spring to arrive. Let's become snake experts as we discover why these animals are so unique, and important too. Live animals will be on hand for touching, and fun activities will help us to imagine life as a snake. (Reservations begin March 1.)

## 20 Animal Babies

*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

(Ages 3 & Up). This is a good time of year to celebrate furry little animal babies. Aren't they cute? They wake up, dash around, leap and jump, play hard with each other, and then cuddle up and fall asleep again. While their parents feed, protect and teach them, the babies are learning about the world around them. Come help us celebrate animal babies, and make a furry little animal to take home. (Reservations begin March 6.)

## 10 Scout Discovery Table: State Symbols

**(Self-guided exhibit)**

*Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

(All ages) Check out the many natural objects that are symbols representing the state of Missouri. This self-guided exhibit will help Junior Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts earn portions of badges relating to nature or wildlife. The activity can usually be completed in 45 minutes. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (No reservations required.)

## 30 Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: Nature Style

*Friday 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

(Homeschool, ages 5 - 8) What do you recycle? Soda cans? Newspaper? Plastics? What does nature do with its "trash?" We will discuss the tenacious little critters that help to keep Missouri clean and then we will go for a hike to catch some of these guys in action. (Reservations begin March 16.)

## 10 Discover Hunting: Game On!

*Saturday 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.*

(Families Ages 10 & Up) Wild game is delicious if prepared properly from the field to the table. Be good stewards of Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife and continue, rekindle, or start a family tradition with hunting and fishing.

Rodney Carr, award winning wild game chef, will be our special speaker. After Mr. Carr's presentation, everyone will move to the dining room and taste samples of various wild game dishes from fish to venison. Copies of your favorite recipes will be available. Get your taste buds ready and come to Powder Valley for a culinary adventure you will never forget! (Reservations begin February 22.)

MDC  
**DISCOVER  
Hunting**



## Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Hallway Exhibit

### Maggie McCarthy, Artist & Dennis McCarthy, Photographer

Dennis and Maggie McCarthy are natives of Missouri. Maggie is an accomplished, award-winning artist who has focused on watercolor landscapes since obtaining her BFA at the University of Oklahoma in 1994. Her paintings can be found in homes and private galleries across the country, from California to Maryland. Dennis has been photographing nature and landscapes for several decades, but has been able to spend more time shooting since retiring from the National Weather Service a few years ago. He has won several awards, including two national awards from *Weatherwise* magazine.

Dennis and Maggie recently returned to St. Charles after many moves around the country. They have four children, three of whom live in the St. Louis area. Besides the March hallway exhibit, their work can be found on their websites: [maggiemccarthy.com](http://maggiemccarthy.com) and [sundog.smugmug.com](http://sundog.smugmug.com).



## Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

### For reservations call (314) 301-1500

March 2012

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with five days notice. From I-44 take Lindbergh (Route 61/67) to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road to Cragwold Road then one mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder)



### In Memory of David Herreid

David Herreid passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2011. David was the beloved husband of Elizabeth Herreid, father of Peter Herreid and Matthew Herreid and stepfather of Jon Blunt and Todd Blunt. In addition to his wife and children, David is survived by his daughter-in-laws, grandchildren and sister.

David was born and raised in Wisconsin. He moved to St. Louis, and eventually retired from a career in education and the insurance business. David became a volunteer at Powder Valley in 2001 and shared his great appreciation of Missouri flora and fauna with our many visitors. David was a warm, caring person with a gentle smile and a great sense of humor.

## Cougar Ecology, Behavior & Verification Workshop

Two-day workshop for the curious:

Home/Landowners, Educators, Naturalists, Ecologists and Outdoor Enthusiasts

*Saturday – Sunday, March 24 -25 8:30 am – 4:30 pm*

Dr. James Halfpenny, Carnivore Ecologist/Professional Tracker

Jeff Beringer, Chairman of Missouri Department of Conservation Mountain Lion Response Team

**Improve your knowledge about cougars, their presence, dangers and management.**

- + Population, biology, behavior and ecology
- + Cougar/human interactions; Cougar pet trade
- + Locating tracks and signs on the trail; Identifying footprints and verifying presence
- + Collecting quality evidence; Determining sex and size of animals; Reading gaits and tracking stories

For more information on registration and fees call Jim Jordan, Sr. Coordinator of Continuing Education, UMSL at (314) 516-7250.

[ce.umsml.edu/catalog](http://ce.umsml.edu/catalog) Keyword: cougar

Registration fee: \$125 (plus \$12.50 for course workbook)

Brought to you by the Missouri Department of Conservation, UMSL, and the St. Louis Academy of Science



## No Child Left Inside Conference

“Growing Up Denatured: It’s time for kids to go back outside.”

*Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

Held at the J.C. PENNEY CONFERENCE CENTER, UMSL

Concerns about long-term consequences of changes in how our children are spending their free time have spawned a national movement to ‘leave no child inside.’ Time outdoors, especially unstructured time in natural settings, can reduce children’s stress, increase their curiosity and creativity, improve their physical coordination, and increase cooperative behavior and problem-solving. The conference is focused for Educators (PreK-3 and informal), Youth Leaders, Volunteers & Parents.



Conference Features: “Childhood Nature Experiences”, Curt Carter, Environmental Musician/Educator

“Connecting Kids through Music, Stories and Experiences” and participants will attend sessions on:

- Benefits of nature play (physical, social and emotional)
- Best practices in outdoor explorations
- Making curriculum connections
- Local resources to support you and your kids

For more information or to register call Jim Jordan, Sr. Coordinator of Continuing Education, UMSL at (314) 516-7250.

Continuing education units (0.6) awarded to conference attendees.

Registration fee: \$39 (includes box lunch)

Optional post conference afternoon field trips will be offered on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (additional fee.)